Historic Preservation

QUARTERLY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Vol. VI, No. 2 Summer 1954

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

Notices concerning the eighth annual meeting of the National Trust to be held October 29-30 in Chicago are being sent to members and member organizations. Headquarters for the meeting will be the Edgewater Beach Hotel, with other meetings and programs scheduled in the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Historical Society. Advance registration and consultation is scheduled for Thursday night from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the hotel.

Registration will open officially at 8:30 a.m., Friday, preceding the business meeting at 10:00 a.m. David E. Finley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, will preside. Philip R. Adams, Director of the Cincinnati Art Museum, will speak on "The Classic Influence in Ohio." Paul M. Angle, Director of the Chicago Historical Society, will preside at the lunch Friday, following which buses will leave from the hotel for a two hour tour of Chicago's architectural landmarks. Mr. Angle, Earl H. Reed, F.A.I.A., and Mrs. C. Phillip Miller will serve as "barkers" on the buses which will take members through the town of Pullman (see editorial on p. 4) and other landmarks, to a tea at the Chicago Historical Society.

The eighth annual dinner will be held that night at the Casino Club, with Mr. Finley presiding. The Earl of Wemyss and March, Chairman of the Council of the National Trust for Scotland, and Lady Wemyss will be guests of honor. Saturday morning the Preservation Forum will be held with Frederick L. Rath, Jr., Director of the Trust, presiding. Speakers are Earl H. Reed, F.A.I.A.; Mrs. Theodore Squier of the Board of Directors, Girl Scouts of America; Ralph Schwarz of Bethlehem Steel Corporation; and Wilbur Peet, Director, John Herron Art Museum, Indianapolis.

Daniel Catton Rich, Director of the Art Institute, will preside at the lunch on Saturday in the Club Room. He will speak on the Museum's collections preceding a guided tour of them. At 3:00 p.m. buses will leave for an overnight excursion to the historic levee town of Galena, a city noted for its scenic beauty and classical architecture. In addition to visits to the Gen. U. S. Grant Memorial Home (1857), Old Market House (1845), Old Customs House (1857-58), some of the historic private homes will be open to Trust members. The Galena Historical Society will entertain members, and the Reverend John Hodgson will give an illustrated lecture on the town's historic buildings.

Hardinge Scholle, consultant of the National Trust, is program chairman. The committee for local arrangements is Mrs. C. Phillip Miller, Mrs. Clive Runnells and Paul M. Angle; Miss Virginia Carroll for Galena.

TRUST ACCEPTS WILSON HOME

The house in Washington, D. C., where the late President Woodrow Wilson lived, and where he died on February 3, 1924, has been presented to the National Trust by his widow, Mrs. Edith Bolling Wilson. Mrs. Wilson also presented the contents of the house not otherwise devised. The deed of gift, which was accepted on the Trust's behalf by David E. Finley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, states it is "for the purpose of establishing and maintaining in perpetuity as a memorial in honor of her late husband, the Honorable Woodrow Wilson, a past president of the United States of America, the house at 2340 "S" Street, N. W., in the City of Washington in which he lived and died."

The house was built by the late Waddy B. Wood, A.I.A., for Henry T. Fairbanks. In 1921, upon leaving the White House after his second term in office, the President and Mrs. Wilson made it their permanent residence. It is a 26-room brick and limestone Georgian house in the embassy section of the city, with a terraced garden in the rear.

Among the furnishings included in the deed of gift are portraits, books, autographed photographs of historic personages identified with historic events of his administration, laces and a famous tapestry especially made for the late President and Mrs. Wilson, commemorative china, and some of the early furniture owned by the Bolling family of Virginia. The leather chair, in which the President sat to preside over Cabinet meetings, carries a bronze plaque presenting it as the Cabinet's gift to him. Attached to the chair, in Mr. Wilson's handwriting, is another plaque which reads, "Presented to my dear wife, whose inspiration meant so much to me while I occupied this chair. Woodrow Wilson."

Mrs. Wilson will continue to reside in the house and it will not be open to the public during her life time. The Trust is then to administer it for public benefit. A permanent endowment is being established to provide for maintenance and operation.

Fireplace at 2340 "S" Street with the Remsky portrait of Woodrow Wilson, the Talentino sculpture and the chair used by President Wilson in presiding over the cabinet. *Robert C. Lautman*

ACTIVE PRESERVATION

Uxbridge, Mass. This spring the 184-year-old Friends Meeting House reopened with a special service to mark the successful completion of its restoration. A group of 34 residents, not all of whom were Quakers, organized as the Quaker Meeting House Association in 1952 to save the old brick structure which was falling into ruin from disuse, lack of maintenance and vandalism. Donations of materials, service and funds; fund-raising through sales of home-cooked foods, steak knives, dinner plates with a history of the church, and post cards designed by a local artist made the restoration possible.

Central City, Colo. Stables across the street from Teller House will be restored with a gift fund of $35,000 from Mrs. Julia Penrose to the Central City Opera House Association. A foundry committee plans to rehabilitate and reopen the old McFarlane foundry up Eureka Street from the Opera House to manufacture souvenir items associated with the historic ghost town's past.

Vancouver, Ore. Soroptimists have restored the old log house (1849) at Vancouver Barracks where General U. S. Grant lived in 1852-53. The museum has been furnished and is open to the public daily.

Scarsdale, N. Y. Wayside Inn (1729) on the Post Road, which two years ago faced demolition, has been restored by the 277 members of the Scarsdale Junior League. In addition to raising a $12,000 restoration fund, the League members donated services and materials. The 11-room house, which had been deeded to the community in 1919, will become League headquarters and will be available for other community organizations. Three of the lower rooms have been converted into a large meeting hall. The D.A.R. are helping to restore and furnish a room in honor of Harvey Birch, the James Fenimore Cooper "spy."

Athol, Kans. Members of the Smith Center Rotary Club have restored the old cabin near Athol where Dr. Brewster Higley, the old country doctor, wrote the words for *Home on the Range.* First known as *My Western Home,* when the homesteading doctor served his pioneer patients and dabbled in politics and poetry, it has become the official state song of Kansas.

Columbia, Calif. Another gold discovery was made in this restored ghost town when workmen excavated under the old Wells Fargo & Co. office in order to replace the old foundation. The State Division of Architecture saved the dirt from the excavation and turned it over to the Division of Mines. Approximately $10,000 in gold was recovered. Columbia celebrated its 104th anniversary this year and is administered by the California State Division of Beaches and Parks.

U.S.S. Constellation in Boston Harbor — *Roy Stevens* (Courtesy Home Insurance Co.)

Washington, D. C. The pen with which President Eisenhower signed the legislation which will assure the repair and maintenance of three historic warships was presented to Rep. James P. S. Devereux (R., Md.), who sponsored the bill. As a marine officer in World War II, Devereux led the defense of Wake Island. The ships are the *Constitution,* "Old Ironsides," built before 1800 to fight the Barbary pirates. It is in Boston Harbor and is 90% restored. It will remain there. The *Constellation,* also at Boston, will be patched up and transferred to Baltimore where she was launched in 1798. The *Hartford,* Admiral David G. Farragut's flagship at the Battle of Mobile Bay during the Civil War, is being repaired at Norfolk, Va., and is to be transferred to Mobile, Ala.

Woodstock, Conn. Quasset School (1748) has been preserved in this small Connecticut village through the efforts of a local group led by Albert H. Williams, who attended the school a half century ago. On the occasion of its dedication as an historic memorial, the U. S. Commissioner of Education and the Governor of the State paid homage to the role the little red schoolhouse played in shaping America's free public school system. President Eisenhower sent a congratulatory message.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Vol. VI, No. 2 Summer 1954

Published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation
712 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.
Subscription is included in annual dues of members and member organizations. Special subscription rate for libraries only is $2.00 per year. Application for entrance as second class matter made April 24, 1952 at Washington, D. C.
Published quarterly

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Chairman of the Board of Trustees: David E. Finley
Director: Frederick L. Rath, Jr. *Administrator:* Henry H. Surface
Editor: Helen Duprey Bullock
Business Manager: F. M. Brotherhood

THE PULLMAN STORY

Trust members attending the annual meeting in Chicago on October 29-30 will have an opportunity to take a tour of one of the most famous model towns of the late nineteenth century—Pullman—now within the vast city limits of Chicago. The inventive, industrial genius that led George Mortimer Pullman to develop his famous Palace Car, "The Pioneer," in 1865, turned itself to the planning of a model town in 1880 for the thousands of workers employed in the vast enterprise.

A booklet written in connection with the Pullman Company's exhibition train at the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 tells of the philosophy that entered into both, "The Pullman idea in particular, that money could be safely invested in an elaboration of the utilitarian into the artistic and beautiful, was a startling departure. The American citizen, it was assumed, had a sovereign contempt for anything, especially in the applied sciences, which in the slightest degree stepped over the baldest utility into the boundaries of the ornamental. If you gave him the substantial with artistic surroundings and beautiful accessories, the assumption was that it was reasonably certain he would expectorate on the surroundings and wipe his boots on the accessories. It was certain he would never pay for either the one or the other."

Purchasing a tract of 3500 acres on Lake Calumet, then 14 miles from Chicago, Pullman with an architect and a landscape engineer laid out a model workingman's town by filling in a soggy prairie. A planned town for 12,000 was erected that included parks, athletic fields, churches, a school, a library, a savings bank, a theatre (pronounced "an artistic gem"). The shopping center was concentrated under the glass roof of a large arcade building. Every house and flat, even those at the cheapest rent, boasted what their chronicler described delicately as equipment of "modern appliances of water, gas, and internal sanitation."

"A town," he concluded, "that is bordered with bright beds of flowers, and green velvety stretches of lawn; that is shaded with trees and dotted with parks and pretty water vistas, and glimpses here and there of artistic sweeps of landscape gardening; a town where the homes, even to the most modest, are bright and wholesome and filled with pure air and light; a town, in a word, where all that is ugly, and discordant, and demoralizing is eliminated, and all that aspires to self-respect, to thrift and to cleanliness of person and of thought is generously provided. Imagine all this, and try to picture the empty, sodden morass out of which this beautiful vision was reared, and you will then have some idea of the splendid work, in its physical aspects at least, which the far-reaching plan of Mr. Pullman has wrought."

Today this town within a city still exists. Television antennas sprout from old mansard roofs, air-conditioning units jut from sedate Victorian windows and some of the parkways, like those of other spacious cities of the horse-and-buggy era, have yielded to the incessant demand of the automobile for wider roads and more parking. It should be great fun to see what Mr. Pullman has wrought.

—H.D.B.

A.I.A. COMMITTEE REPORT

Earl H. Reed, F.A.I.A., issued the 1953-54 report of the Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings for the June meeting of the American Institute of Architects. This committee working closely with the Trust has intervened to prevent threatened destruction or disfigurement of historic American architecture throughout the country. There are now 70 preservation officers in the various chapters of the A.I.A., many of whom are also Trust members. In the program of inventorying historic structures more than 900 have received preliminary listing (some of these will be rejected). They were selected on the basis of antiquity, historic association and architectural merit.

Further progress is reported on the inventory on 89 approved structures selected for permanent recording in quintuplicate in accordance with forms devised in cooperation with the National Park Service, the Trust and the Library of Congress, intended to serve as a continuation of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Of these 68 have been completed. In addition to this, certain state and city chapters are undertaking extensive surveys of all surviving buildings in their sections. Among these Carroll L. V. Meeks is directing the inventorying of New Haven by his students at Yale; John Hutchins Cady of Rhode Island supplied a list of 174 of 2500 colonial buildings to be locally reviewed and selected.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Charlottesville, Va. Using a mine detector, C. M. Watkins and K. M. Perry of the Smithsonian Institution, explored the former site of *Michie Tavern,* an historic house museum owned by Mrs. Vestal Milton, a Trust member, and now located near Charlottesville on the road to *Monticello.* Once on the Buck Mountain road, the famous old hostelry stood on land owned by Major John Henry, father of Patrick Henry. Nails, part of a hatchet, a coach spring and numerous fragments of glass and china recovered in the investigation are being treated with preservatives and will be displayed in the tavern.

Hermann, Mo. This small community which has attracted thousands through the revival of its traditional German Maifest has been devoting the proceeds to a preservation program directed by Historic Hermann, Inc. This year they were recipients of the award presented by the Missouri Council of Community Improvement.

Washington, D. C. Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard announce spring publication of *Historic Houses of Georgetown and Washington City* by the Dietz Press of Richmond. The book gives an architectural description and history of each house against a background of the social history of the period. It is copiously illustrated and contains a section on the noteworthy houses of the District that no longer exist.

Detroit, Mich. Detroit Historical Society held its third annual open house in July to commemorate the city's 253rd birthday. One highlight of the program was cutting the ribbon to open 1840-50 Street of Detroit.

Setauket, N. Y. About 250 members and guests attended the annual meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities in June. The program included tours of early houses associated with Capt. John Underhill and his family, the Underhill monument and *Raynham Hall.* Professor Robert C. Smith of the University of Pennsylvania spoke on "The Colonial House."

Williamsburg, Va. Edward M. Riley, chief park historian at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia has been named director of research for Colonial Williamsburg. He will succeed Dr. A. Pierce Middleton who resigned to become rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brookfield, Conn. Mr. Riley graduated from Washington & Lee University and received his master's and doctor's degrees at the University of Southern California. He served for a number of years as historian for the Colonial National Historical Park in Virginia, which includes Jamestown and Yorktown areas.

A typical street in Pullman, the "model town" now within Chicago's city limits, to be visited on the architectural tour during the annual meeting. *Chicago Historical Society*

Boston, Mass. The Old South Association has issued a catalogue of its leaflet series. The organization which has preserved the Old South Meeting House as one of its objectives, has printed more than 200 titles in its series to make available cheap reprints of valuable source material on such topics as the discovery of America, exploration, settlement, the English Constitutional struggle, the American Revolution and the Civil War. Catalogues and prices are available from the Leaflet Committee, the Old South Association, Washington and Milk Streets, Boston 8.

Washington, D. C. Historic Georgetown, Inc., has issued the second annual report to its stockholders on its successful completion of the work of remodeling the stores in its group of federal buildings on M Street. The stores have all been rented and income is being used to remodel the upper floors as studios, offices and apartments. The National Trust has been given such large blocks of stock that it is the largest single stockholder in the venture. A group of public-spirited citizens bought the buildings, which were in danger of being demolished, and undertook their preservation as a demonstration that preservation and use of historic buildings can be a sound investment.

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Brook Foundation (N. J.); Mark Twain Memorial Association (Conn.); Old South Association in Boston; Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation, Inc. (Va.); Tombstone Restoration Commission (Ariz.); Winnetka Garden Club (Ill.); and Brooklyn Borough Gas Company (N. Y.), Corporate Member. Two sponsoring member organizations, both more than a half century old, have changed and shortened their names this year: Ohio State Historical Society and Trustees of Reservations (Mass.).

Boscobel, the historic mansion built by Staats Morris Dyckman, and considered by architects one of the most distinguished of the Hudson River examples of its era, has been declared surplus by the Veterans Administration which operates the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Veterans Hospital. Previous intervention by the Trust, the A.I.A., and New York preservation groups resulted in a stabilization of the building several years ago with a possible view towards its use as a club or guest house for visitors. The Administration has ordered it removed from the site, and costs of re-erecting it elsewhere are prohibitive. Measured drawings and photographs have been made. *New York Times Magazine*

DESTRUCTION

Marine-on-St. Croix, Minn. Faulty electrical wiring was the source of the $75,000 blaze that destroyed the pioneer mansion erected in 1846 on the St. Croix River by Orange Walker, a native of Vermont, in the then new territory of Minnesota. The structure was a two-story frame mansion with cupola, and was noted for its gold-leaf parlor wallpaper, fine mantels and woodwork. The house had been restored and within the next week was to open to the public as a tearoom and antique shop.

Atlanta, Ga. Old Washington Seminary Building on Peachtree Road has been sold to a development corporation, the famous girls' school having moved to a new location. The syndicate promises that the type of business which replaces it "will be in keeping with the character of the section."

Knoxville, Tenn. Historical groups abandoned the effort to move and preserve the early building on the Bride's Church tract which has been acquired as a site for a new store building. The bad condition of the building, and the prohibitive expense of tearing down and re-erecting a brick building were deciding factors. The former owner states that materials salvaged from the structure can be used in repair and restoration work at Blount Mansion and Ramsey House, two projects of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities.

Irvington, Ky. From *Covered Bridge Topics*, the publication of the Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges (a Trust member) is a report on the destruction of an historic bridge across Sinking Creek in Breckinridge County. Reprinted from the *Courier-Journal* is the account of the failure of county authorities to spend $160 for new roofing. A heavily-loaded truck broke a sill rotted from damp, and the bridge was condemned as unsafe. With the bridge out, a nine mile detour is necessary to get from one side to the other of Sinking Creek. "And so it is that Breckinridge County loses a covered bridge rich in history, pleasant in its reflections of other days. And faces the expenditure of $5,000 or so to replace it with a new steel bridge, uncovered, uncolorful," concludes the reporter.

Washington, N. C. Failure of the citizens of Washington to raise half the purchase price to save the historic De Mille house built in the early part of the nineteenth century has resulted in its demolition and a filling station will be erected on its site. The residence of Henry Churchill De Mille, father of the moving picture producer, Cecil B. De Mille, and his playwright brother, William, had a long association with the family. The producer offered to give half the purchase price for his boyhood home to create a city museum. He also promised the DeMille collection to it.

Levittown, Pa. In 1687 William Penn signed the deed to a tract of land in an Indian-infested wilderness ten miles northeast of the little town of Philadelphia. This year a descendant of the settlers who built a handsome, sturdy stone house on the land sold the dwelling and the remaining three acres for "a price that would knock your hat in the creek," according to the owner. The bulldozers and wreckers have moved in on the 250-year-old landmark, and by spring 77 new subdivision houses will occupy the site.

TRUST COMMITTEES

At the business meeting of the Board of Trustees of the National Trust held on June 4 at *Woodlawn Plantation*, Mount Vernon, Va., the committees were appointed. *Accessions:* John Walker, chairman; Arthur A. Houghton, Jr.; Charles F. Montgomery, Mrs. Henry P. Russell and Mrs. Arthur Woods. *Finance:* C. F. Jacobsen, chairman; Horace M. Albright, Colonel Edgar W. Garbisch, and Commander Keith Merrill. *Nominating:* Robert Woods Bliss, chairman; Lauder Greenway and Richard H. Howland.

According to the by-laws of the Trust, "Nominations for General Trustees, where there are vacancies for any reason, may be made on petition of fifteen or more members of the National Trust, providing they are communicated to the Nominating Committee not less than two weeks in advance of the annual meeting in which the election is to be held."

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has announced his plan to restore historic Van Cortlandt Manor. Seven generations lived in the house through its 259 years since the first lord of the manor, Stephanus Van Cortlandt, purchased a realm of 87,000 acres from the Indians and built the fortress that was later incorporated into the manor house.

Buffalo, N. Y. The Niagara Parks Commission plans to preserve old Fort Mississaugua at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Restoration had been requested by the local historical society and other citizens' groups.

Washington, D. C. A bill ordering a cost study on the restoration of Ford's Theatre to the way it looked on the night Abraham Lincoln was shot has been approved by the House Interior sub-committee. At the present time the theatre is operated as a museum by the National Park Service and is filled with exhibits arranged chronologically to tell the story of Lincoln's life. Among the objects displayed are the pistol with which he was assassinated, the Treasury Guard flag which tripped Booth as he leaped from the box, Booth's diary and numerous photographs. The government closed the theatre after the assassination and refused to let Ford reopen it. They then purchased it and remodeled it into a fireproof building for record storage. In doing this, all woodwork was removed, the building was divided into three stories supported by cast iron columns and wrought-iron girders and beams. A second tragedy occurred on June 9, 1893, when the floors collapsed, killing 22 War Department clerks and injuring 68.

Philadelphia, Pa. Restoration of the Singley Mansion opposite League Island golf course in South Philadelphia has been undertaken by the Fairmount Park Commission. The two-story brick house, paneled in native pine, was built about 1750.

Durant, Okla. Members of the Lions Club have proposed restoration of old Fort Washita.

Detroit, Mich. City officials have approved the plan of moving Mariners Church about 800 feet to a new site. The 106-year-old church is in the middle of the site planned for the Ford Plaza and Auditorium.

Rochester, N. Y. The story and a half frame house in Waterville, N. Y., birthplace of George Eastman, founder of Eastman Kodak Co., is to be moved to Rochester and established as a memorial. The house will be placed on the Eastman House grounds in this city.

Highlands, N. J. Owen Grundy, a Trust member from New York City, has been one of the leaders in a movement to save "Twin Lights," the lighthouse which has been declared surplus by the U. S. Coast Guard. The Borough of Highlands has accepted the title and will use the landmark as a museum and community center.

FROM ABROAD

Wellington, N. Z. Bills have been introduced into Parliament to establish a National Trust for Historic Places in New Zealand. Proponents of the measure devoted a great deal of study to the operation in the United States of governmental and non-governmental agencies in the field.

Rome. Nearby subway construction may have caused a dangerous weakening of the great outer walls of the Colosseum. The office of the Superintendent of Antiquities and Fine Arts said the monument needed a thorough checkup, and temporary steel reinforcements have been erected while restoration studies proceed.

London. St. Bride's, the bomb-ruined "Cathedral of Fleet Street," whose slender spire has been imitated on countless wedding cakes, is being rebuilt with the help of newspapers around the world. The Christopher Wren church was ruined in the blitz of Dec. 29, 1940, when seven other Wren churches were hard hit by German incendiary bombs.

Stockholm. The Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, which emerged from a little Court Academy founded in Sweden in 1753 by Queen Lovisa Ulrika now includes in the broad scope of its program the Central Office of National Antiquities. At their invitation, the National Trust is exchanging publications and has received copies of its handsomely printed and illustrated yearbooks for 1951-53. A summary of each annual report and captions under photographs are given in English. Their function is to inventory and protect the historic and prehistoric monuments of Sweden. Since 1943, the Central Office (Riksantikvarieämbetet), which has the right of decision in cardinal matters affecting the preservation and protection of cultural monuments, has had the assistance of regional inspectors to provide close contact with local preservation groups.

Venice. Frank Lloyd Wright is the center of a controversy over the erection of a modern house on the Grand Canal. Defenders of Mr. Wright say his building will replace an undistinguished building that is not particularly old. Rather than marring the traditional features of Venice, they claim it would add a new gem to the many that adorn the Queen of the Adriatic. "All ages have left their mark on Venice and the Grand Canal, and it is fitting that the twentieth century should do so also." The traditionalists insist they hold no brief against modern architecture, but think the Canal no place to display it. One critic wrote, "Even if Wright were ten thousand times greater than Michaelangelo it would be presumptuous of him to wish to build on the Grand Canal."

The Lenox Library of the Princeton Theological Seminary is scheduled to be razed to make way for a modern new Library. Completed in 1843, the Gothic structure has been attributed to the architect Richard Upjohn. Alan W. Richards, Princeton, N. J.

IN DANGER

Ardmore, Pa. Two historic houses in the Valley Forge area are rapidly disintegrating from neglect, effect of highway construction, and vandalism. The Revolutionary War Headquarters of Paymaster-General William Palfrey at Devault, built in 1741, were in good condition until 1950, but at the present are so deteriorated that restoration seems unlikely. The two-story stone and wood farmhouse nearby was built in 1765 by Samuel Harvard. In the trying time when the tattered Continental Army hovered on the brink of defeat, it served as headquarters of General Lafayette. Now owned by the University of Pennsylvania, it is rapidly falling into ruin because the University has no funds for its protection.

New Orleans, La. Condemned for further use as a public school, the century-old building designed by Louisiana's great architect, Howard, as a courthouse for Carrollton (now incorporated within New Orleans) is currently in use as a school board warehouse. Ownership of the property is in dispute and if a bill in the current legislature is passed, title will pass to the school board, which plans to dispose of the valuable and well-located property to build up its school funds. Other groups, supported by the National Trust and its Louisiana member organizations, advocate the proposal of a citizens' committee to create a Carrollton community center and museum. Mayor DeLesseps S. Morrison, in response to a Trust inquiry, has assured his full support to the community center program.

Hannibal, Mo. Concerned local groups and the Mark Twain Municipal Board are trying to find means to save John Marshall Clemen's Law Office on Bird Street. It was here that Tom Sawyer, playing truant from school, slipped into his father's deserted office at nightfall in 1843 and discovered in the moonlight the corpse of a man stabbed in the breast. As related in *Innocents Abroad* and often mentioned in Mark Twain's lectures, "I went out at the window, and I carried the sash with me; I did not need the sash but it was handier to take it than to leave it, and so I took it." The shabby small frame building is being gradually shoved down by an adjacent brick building that is disintegrating. Since the law office has no inner wall of its own, its renovation has puzzled contractors. The Law Office was given to the city of Hannibal by Warner Brothers when they filmed *The Adventures of Mark Twain* and used it for one of the settings.

Huntsville, Texas. Sam Houston, the general who led the Texas fight for freedom to make it an independent republic, has a state-supported memorial in his honor in the house he owned in Huntsville. At least 20,000 visitors annually visit this historic house museum, and because only small sums have been allocated for its maintenance, the house is now showing alarming signs of wear and tear according to its custodians.

New Bloomfield, Ohio. The Charles Brown house (1846) on a wooded hill outside the town, that served as a station on the underground railroad, aiding fugitive slaves escaping to free soil, is to be sold. The Gothic revival structure is still occupied by a descendant of the builder who is trying to find a purchaser who will assure its preservation.

New York, N. Y. On the recommendation of the Budget Director, New York City is planning to replace the City Court building at the north end of City Hall Park. "This time the antiquarians need not mourn for a disappearing landmark," comments the *Herald Tribune*, "Everybody will be happy to get rid of the old structure, even though it contains a lot of New York history. Nobody ever liked it, not from the day in 1870 when it was completed at a cost of $12,000,000, mostly graft. This, of course, is the Tweed courthouse, symbol of the Tammany boss whose ring looted the city treasury of sums estimated up to $200,000,000. It was all a long time ago, which is all the more reason for not forgetting about William Marcy Tweed when the courthouse is gone." The *Herald Tribune* says the hideous structure will be a joyous riddance, but advocates a wall plaque to Boss Tweed, embellished with a Thomas Nast cartoon.